

Message Text

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14-L
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 SS-15 EB-07 A-01

H-02 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 IGA-02 /062 W
----- 021743

P 270721Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2404

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7//

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, LE, US

SUBJECT: FY 1978 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTIMATES

REF: (A) STATE 283410 (DTG 181354Z NOV 76) (B) BEIRUT 7200 (DTG
011052Z SEP 76)

1. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, SITUATION IN LEBANON TODAY MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REQUESTED REF A. DURING PAST 18 MONTHS OF WAR, LEBANESE ARMY COLLAPSED, ITS OFFICERS AND MEN EITHER JOINED ONE OF THE MANY COMPETING MILITIAS OR SIMPLY WENT HOME AND ITS EQUIPMENT HAS LARGELY BEEN STOLEN AND/OR DESTROYED. EVEN THOUGH ARAB SECURITY FORCE HAS NOW ESTABLISHED ITS CONTROL OVER MOST OF THE COUNTRY, PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TURN HIS ATTENTION TO RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES (LAF). INFO PROVIDED BELOW BASED ON ASSUMPTION SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO STABILIZE AND LAF WILL BE RECONSTITUTED. BELIEVE GOL WILL WELCOME OFFER OF CREDIT BUT FORESEE LITTLE PROGRESS UNTIL NEW CABINET FORMED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS. THE LAF WILL OBVIOUSLY NEED A SOURCE OF MODERN EQUIPMENT TO PERMIT A RETURN TO THEIR PRE-WAR CAPABILITY AND TO INSURE THAT LEBANON WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ITS OWN INTERNAL SECURITY.

2. AS INDICATED REF B, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT USG BE PREPARED TO OFFER LEBANON ONE TIME DOLS 25 MILLION MAP GRANT IN FY 77,
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IN FULFILLMENT OF OUR LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO HELP LEBANON

REBUILD ITS NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES ONCE FIGHTING STOPPED.
IN ADDITION, REF B RECOMMENDED AN FMS PROGRAM OF DOLS 10
MILLION IN FY 77 TO ENABLE LAF TO REPLACE EQUIPMENT. WE
ENVISAGE FY 78 FMS PROGRAM AS FOLLOW-ON TO THESE EFFORTS, TO
INCLUDE FOLLOWING MAJOR ITEMS:

A. 25 M605 2 1/2 TON 6X6 TRUCKS

B. 50 M151A1 1/4 TON VEHICLES

C. 10,000 M-16 RIFLES W/AMMUNITION

D. 40 AN/PRC 77 RADIOS

E. 25 AN/VRC 47 RADIOS

F. 40 M-113 A1 APC

G. EQUIPMENT SPARES

AS ITEMS A THROUGH G ABOVE ARE BASIC ITEMS NEEDED TO SUPPORT/
EQUIP THE LAF, THE PROBABILITY OF SALE IS VERY HIGH.

3. GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION, THIS
MUST BE CONSIDERED A VERY PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE. IF, FOR EXAMPLE,
THE GOL SHOULD DECIDE TO PROCURE ONE OF THESE MAJOR ITEMS FROM
ANOTHER SOURCE, IT MIGHT NOT PURCHASE ANY OF THAT PARTICULAR
ITEM FROM US BUT INCREASE THE PURCHASE LEVEL OF ANOTHER ITEM
ON THE LIST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT08634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760440-0730
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976119/aaaaahfa.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 283410, 76 BEIRUT 7200
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY 1978 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTIMATES
TAGS: PINS, MASS, LE, US
To: DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006